Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 208234

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, BC, EPAP

SUBJECT:REQUEST FOR CUSTOMS INFORMATION BY BOTSWANA GAME SKIN IMPORTER

REFERENCE: (A) GABORONE 451; (B) GABORONE 1299

- 1. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS RAISED REFTELS, FOLLOWING INFO HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY FEDERAL WILDLIFE PERMIT OFFICE, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, DEPT. OF INTERIOR:
- (1) THE LATEST REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE IMPORT OF ANIMAL TROPHIES ARE BEING POUCHED. THEY ARE:
- (A) THE REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OF 1973, 50 CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, PART 17 (INCLUDING REPUBLISHED LIST DATED OCTOBER 27, 1976).
- (B) THE REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING THE CONVENTION ON INTER-UNCLASSIFIED

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NATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA, 50 CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, PART 23.

INCLUDED IN THESE REGULATIONS ARE THE LISTS OF PROTECTED ANIMALS. THE RED LECHWE, KOBUS LECHE, APPEARS ON THESE LISTS AS AN ENDANGERED (THE ACT), AND AS AN APPENDIX I (THE CONVENTION) SPECIES. AS SUCH, IMPORT OF THE RED LECHWE

AND ITS PARTS AND DERIVATIVES IS UNDER STRICT CONTROL. THE REGULATIONS DO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS, MOST NOTABLY THE PRE-ACT AND PRE-CONVENTION EXCEPTIONS OF SECTIONS ,7.4 AND 23.13 (C), RESPECTIVELY.

2. CONCERNING PRODUCTS MADE FROM OTHER ANIMALS MENTIONED, THE LISTS MENTIONED ABOVE MUST BE CHECKED. IF AN ANIMAL DOES NOT APPEAR ON EITHER LIST, IMPORTATION INTO U.S. DOES NOT ORDINARILY REQUIRE A PERMIT. IF IT APPEARS ON ONE LIST THE REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPORTATION UNDER THAT LIST MUST BE SATISFIED. IF THE ANIMAL APPEARS ON BOTH LISTS, THE REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPORTATION UNDER BOTH LISTS MUST BE MET. HOWEVER, ONLY ONE APPLICATION NEED BE FILED. SEE SECTION 23.15 (A).

IN GENERAL, IF AN ANIMAL IS CONTROLLED BY THE ACT AND THE CONVENTION, A PERMIT FROM THE EXPORTING COUNTRY AND THE U.S. IS REQUIRED. IF CONTROLED ONLY BY THE CONVENTION, THEN, IN THE CASE OF AN APPENDIX I SPECIMEN, AN IMPORT AND EXPORT PERMIT (OR EQUIVALENT DOCUMENTATION, SEE SECTION 23.14) IS REQUIRED, OF FOR AN APPENDIX II SPECIMEN, ONLY AN EXPORT PERMIT. IF THE ACT ALONE APPLIES, THEN ONLY A US PERMIT IS NEEDED.

(B) ASSUMING THE ELEPHANT SKIN PRODUCTS WERE MADE FROM AFRICAN ELEPHANT SKINS, THE FOREIGN DOCUMENTATION REQUIRE-UNCLASSIFIED

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MENT OF SECTION 23.14 SHOULD BE MET. NO CORRESPONDING U.S. PERMIT IS NEEDED SINCE THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT IS AN APPENDIX II SPECIES UNDER THE CONVENTION AND IS NOT, AT THE PRESENT TIME, CONTROLLED BY THE ACT. U.S. RESIDENTS SHOULD OBTAIN THE APPROPRIATE FOREIGN DOCUMENTATION FROM AN OFFICIAL OF THE BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR AUTHORIZING THE EXPORT OF WILDLIFE. CHRISTOPHER

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